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POLITICAL FEATURE 1-1984
JOHN ALBERT

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EUROPE AND JIMMY CARTER

ANNCR:

EUROPEAN WRITERS AND AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS REPORTING FROM EUROPE ARE GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF EUROPEAN LEADERS IN REGARD TO PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE CARRIED AN ARRAY OF STORIES ON WHAT EUROPE EXPECTS FROM JIMMY CARTER AND ON WHAT ISSUES IT VIEWS HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH CONCERN.

HISTORIAN ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, WRITING FOR THE "WALL STREET JOURNAL" FROM PARIS, DESCRIBES THE EUROPEAN IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AS INTERESTING, REFRESHING, BUT ALSO MYSTIFYING. EUROPEANS, HE WRITES, FEEL THEY DO NOT KNOW YET MUCH ABOUT THE NEW POLITICAL MOOD IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH THEY EXPECT MISTER CARTER TO MIRROR IN HIS POLICIES. EUROPEANS, WRITES MISTER SCHLESINGER, BELIEVE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL IMMEDIATELY FACE A SERIES OF DIFFICULT FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS. AND, IN HIS VIEW, THEY FEAR THAT THESE DECISIONS WILL BE DEFERRED IN ORDER TO BEGIN REORDERING THINGS AT HOME. EUROPEANS, MISTER SCHLESINGER WRITES, HOPE FOR AN EXPANSIONIST AMERICAN ECONOMIC POLICY WITH ITS FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES ABROAD. BUT, ABOVE ALL, HE OBSERVES, WESTERN EUROPE WANTS "REASSURANCE," CONVEYED THROUGH THE CABINET APPOINTMENTS MISTER CARTER MAKES.

"NEW YORK TIMES" CORRESPONDENT FLORA LEWIS, ALSO WRITING FROM PARIS, SAYS THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF CYRUS VANCE AS SECRETARY OF STATE WAS WELL RECEIVED IN WESTERN EUROPE. SHE NOTES THE TREMENDOUS CHANGE IN EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES COMPARED WITH A FEW YEARS AGO. "AND, THE INTENSITY OF THE EUROPEANS' SENSE OF NEED TO KNOW WASHINGTON'S INTENTIONS," MISS LEWIS WRITES, LED TO THE UNPRECEDENTED CALL FOR AN EARLY SUMMIT MEETING AFTER MISTER CARTER'S INAUGURATION NEXT MONTH. ALL THIS, SHE CONCLUDES, ADDS UP TO A GREATLY INCREASED, AND PERCEIVED, UNITED STATES RESPONSIBILITY AND STAKE IN THE WELL-BEING OF THE WEST.

ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC ONE HAS THE STRONG FEELING THAT EUROPEAN EXPECTATIONS AND CONCERNS ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE VANCE. IN THE FEW REMARKS MISTER VANCE HAS ALREADY MADE TO JOURALISTS, HIS INTEREST IN EUROPEAN CONCERNS CAME THROUGH. HE, AS MISTER CARTER BEFORE HIM, HAVE EMPHASIZED THE VIEW THAT EUROCOMMUNISM IS A DOMESTIC ISSUE OF THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. A POSSIBLE COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN A WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT, HE HAS POINTED OUT, COULD UPSET THE SOVIET UNION'S RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE MORE THAN IT MIGHT DESTABILIZE THE NATO ALLIANCE.

MISTER VANCE HAS ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO BE SENSITIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION. AND, IN THIS REGARD, HE THINKS IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO INSIST ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS.

THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT MISTER VANCE'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE NATO ALLIANCE, THE SAME COMMITMENT JIMMY CARTER CONFIRMED THIS WEEK IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE NATO MINISTERS. AND WHILE THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE ATTACHES HIGHEST PRIORITY TO

THE CONCLUSION OF THE SALT NEGOTATIONS AND FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD MIDEAST PEACE, HE INTENDS TO DELEGATE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND THUS BE FREE TO DEVOTE MAJOR ATTENTION TO AMERICA'S ALLIES AND FRIENDS. INDEED, MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID IN ADVANCE OF JANAURY TWENTIETH TO REASSURE AMERICA'S ALLIES IN EUROPE ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY GOALS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AS THEY WILL AFFECT WESTERN EUROPE.

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